Proposals for installation of T.V. Stations in the Tribal and border Districts of Himachal Pradesh

2543. SHRI SUSHIL GARONGPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals for installation of T.V. stations in the tribal and border districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) by when these stations of various categories are likely to be set up;

(c) whether Government have made any evaluation/study in regard to fulfilling its norms pertaining to hilly border and tribal areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASITNG (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Nine Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs) are presently under implementation in the border and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) districts of Himachal Pradesh. Of these, one VLPT is technically ready for commissioning and the remaining eight are expected to be completed during 1997-98 subject to availability of suitable site and infrastructural facilities.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan, in its endeavour to provide TV service to hitherto uncovered areas of the country, assings due priority of hilly, border and tribal areas and projects are implemented in a pleased manner subject to availability of funds and other infrastructural facilities.

World Bank Norms and Loans

2544. SHRI SAIFULLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has toughened norms for loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Formulation of Policy to prevent Deaths due to Rabies

2545. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Deaths due to rabies on the rise" as reported in Statesman dated 4th November, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the mortality rates due to the disease has been increasing in the absence of comprehensive rabies control programme; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate policy to prevent deaths due to rabies; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALIM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no reliable data to indicate that the mortality rates due to rabies has been increasing. As rabies control measure, the State Govts. in the Normal course are procuring their requirements of rabies vaccines from various vaccine production centres.

(c) Recently a decision has been taken to start sensitising public representatives, the media and the public about the need for compulsory licencing of dogs, supported by vaccinations and the reduction of the stray dog population in humane manner as adopted in other countries. The effort is to involve all States in the exercise. The production of anti-rabies vaccine has also been reviewed recently and efforts have been

intensified to produce tissue culture based vaccines within the country.

Welfare Fund for Advocates

2546. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government have some proposals to allot a portion of fund from plan outlay towards the welfare fund for advocates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): No, Sir.

Proposal to increase HBA/Loan for Government Employees

2547. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRI JAGDAMBI MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present Government employees are getting House Building Advance/Loan from the Central Government upto a maximum of 50 months basic pay which is too less compared to the hike of prices of raw materials and other essential building materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the House Building Advance/Loan in favour of Government employees in the near future; and

(d) by when the amount is likely to be increased and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) At present House Building Advance admissible to Central Government employees is 50 months basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs. This was fixed in June, 1987 consequent upon recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission. Since then there has been substantial rise in the prices of building materials.

(c) and (d) The question of revising the present admissibility of House Building Advance to Government employees has been considered by the Government but it has been decided that recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission in this regard may be awaited.

Evolving Code for 'Corporate Governance'

2548. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any formal code of "Corporate Governance" by asking/seeking suggestions from FIs on an enhanced role in the functioning of companies, as reported in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 29th November, 1996;

(b) whether any seminar on "Corporate Governance" was recently organised in New Delhi;

(c) if so, whether any guidelines on the role of FIs nominee directors and transparency and disclosures by Indian companies was discussed; and

(d) whether Government have compared Indian companies role between Anglo-Saxon model or Japanese model, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government has not evolved any code on "Corporate Governance". However, Government had suggested to some Financial Institutions to study the practices of Corporate Governance by major Indian Corporates vis-a-vis the recommendations of the Cadbury Committee.

(b) to (d) The seminar on "Corporate Governance" was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in collaboration with Egon Zehnder International and not by Government.